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SECURITY INFORMATION

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WSEG

6 November 1952

Chief, Materials Division, ORR

Estimates of Civil Consumption of Petroleum Products in Wartime 1954.

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1. This will confirm the conversation this morning with [REDACTED] of your Group, regarding a special estimate covering the minimum annual civilian petroleum requirements of the Soviet Bloc in the event of a general war in 1954. It was agreed that it would be possible to provide such an estimate on or before 15 December 1952.
2. It was indicated that estimates covering the consumption of the USSR, the European Satellites, and the Asiatic Satellites, in terms of total distillate fuels, residuals, lubricants, and total petroleum products would meet your requirements. It was also noted that a breakdown of consumption by major consumer groups would be required. Further, it was agreed that an effort would be made to appraise the effect of the conversion of the Bloc's petroleum consuming equipment to other fuels, and the time required to make these conversions.
3. During the conversation, some of the difficulties inherent in end-use derivation of consumption estimates were discussed, and it was noted that the range of error inherent in this methodology would limit the accuracy of the resulting estimates.
4. Finally, it was agreed that [REDACTED] would furnish estimates of the minimum amount of industrial plant which it would be necessary to operate in order to support the war effort contemplated in your project, as a guide to determining the minimum petroleum requirements of these facilities.

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